

AMENDMENT

Serial Number: 10/607,975

Filing Date: June 30, 2003

Title: Disposable article with centrally located zones of elasticity

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): An absorbent article having a front portion, a back portion, a crotch portion, and two side portions, the article comprising:

a main chassis;

an absorbent portion; and

~~an elastic portion~~ first and second elastic portions operatively associated with the main chassis,

~~wherein the elastic portion comprises a single~~ the first elastic portion positioned in the front portion of the article ~~[[,]] and a single~~ the second elastic portion positioned in the back portion of the article, ~~and associated side portions for the first and the second elastic portions, the first elastic portion having a larger area in the front portion than in either of the associated side portions, and the second elastic portion having a larger area in the back portion than in either of the associated side portions, and~~

wherein both the first and second elastic portions have a central portion positioned between the side portions of the article having a lateral width less than a lateral width of the main chassis, and

wherein each central portion extends in a longitudinal direction towards the crotch portion of the article.

~~wherein the first elastic portion has a depth measured from the a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the second elastic portion has a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the front portion of the first elastic portion substantially equals the depth of the back portion of the second elastic portion.~~

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The article of claim 5, wherein both the first and second elastic portions have a first region that overlaps the main chassis for attachment of the first and second elastic portions to the main chassis and a second region that does not overlap the main chassis, wherein the first and second elastic portions replace a portion of the main chassis.

Claim 7 (original): The article of claim 6, wherein the first region has an area that is smaller than an area of the second region.

Claim 8 (original): The article of claim 7, wherein the area of the first region is less than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The article of claim 8, wherein the area of the second region is substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion such that the attachment of the first and second elastic portions to the main chassis is an edge-to-edge attachment .

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The article of claim 5, wherein the first elastic portion has a ~~front~~ first central elastic portion corresponding to the front portion of the article and two first side elastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article, and the second elastic portion has a ~~back~~ second central elastic portion corresponding to the back portion of the article and two second side elastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The article of claim 11, wherein the ~~front~~ first central elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the first side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the ~~front~~ first central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the first side elastic portions.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): The article of claim 12, wherein the ~~back~~ second central elastic portion has a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the ~~back~~ second central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): The article of claim 11, wherein the ~~back~~ second central elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the ~~back~~ second central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The article of claim ~~5~~ 11, wherein the first and second side elastic portions are inelastic.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The article of claim 16, wherein the first central elastic portion contacts the second central elastic portion.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The article of claim 17, wherein the first central elastic portion contacts the second central elastic portion at a the crotch portion of the article.

Claim 19 (original): The article of claim 18, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions have different areas.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are one of oval and circular in shape.

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Claim 23 (previously presented): The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are diamond shaped.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are rectangular.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The article of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5, wherein the article is a diaper.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The article of claim 5, wherein the article is a pant.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): A method of making an absorbent article having a front portion, a back portion, two side portions, a main chassis, an absorbent portion, a first elastic portion operatively associated with the main chassis, and a second elastic portion operatively associated with the main chassis, the elastic portions having a larger area in one of the front portion and the back portion than in either of the side portions, the method comprising: moving the main chassis in a machine direction; applying the first elastic portion to the main chassis; and applying the second elastic portion to the main chassis, wherein the elastic portions are shaped such that the elastic portions can be formed from a single ribbon of material with substantially no waste.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of claim 27, wherein one of the first elastic portion and the second elastic portion has a first region that overlaps the main chassis and a second region that does not overlap the main chassis.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method of claim 28, wherein the first region has an area that is smaller than an area of the second region.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method of claim 29, wherein the area of the first region is less than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The method of claim 30, wherein the area of the second region is substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion.

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Claim 32 (withdrawn): The method of claim 27, wherein the first elastic portion has a larger area in the front portion than it does in either of the side portions, and the second elastic portion has a larger area in the back portion than it does in either of the side portions.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first elastic portion has a front elastic portion corresponding to the front portion of the article and two first side elastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article, and the second elastic portion has a back elastic portion corresponding to the back portion of the article and two second side elastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein the front elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the first side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the front elastic portion is greater than the depth of the first side elastic portions.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The method of claim 34, wherein the back elastic portion has a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, of the back, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the back elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein the depth of the front elastic portion substantially equals the depth of the back elastic portion.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein the back elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the back elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

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Claim 38 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the side portions are inelastic.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): The method of claim 38, wherein the first elastic portion contacts the second elastic portion.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The method of claim 39, wherein the first elastic portion contacts the second elastic portion at a crotch portion of the article.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The method of claim 40, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions have different areas.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions are one of oval and circular in shape.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions are diamond shaped.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second elastic portions are rectangular.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the article is a diaper.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the article is a pant.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): A method of supplying first and second elastic portions for making an absorbent article having a front portion, a back portion, two side portions, a main chassis, an absorbent portion, the first elastic portion operatively associated with the main chassis, and the second elastic portion operatively associated with the main chassis, the elastic portions having a

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larger area in one of the front portion and the back portion than in either of the side portions, the method comprising: forming the elastic portions from a single ribbon of material with substantially no waste; re-indexing the elastic portions relative to each other; and transporting the elastic portions to an assembly position of the article.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): The method of claim 49, wherein one of the first elastic portion and the second elastic portion has a first region that overlaps the main chassis and a second region that does not overlap the main chassis.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): The article of claim 50, wherein the first region has an area that is smaller than an area of the second region.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): The article of claim 51, wherein the area of the first region is less than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): The article of claim 52, wherein the area of the second region is substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein the article further comprises a first carrier layer operatively associated with at least one of the first and second elastic ~~member~~ portions.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim ~~5~~ 11, wherein a longitudinal dimension of at least one of the first ~~or~~ and second elastic portion portions along the longitudinal direction is a first distance, a longitudinal dimension of each of the associated side portions for the first and second elastic portions along the longitudinal direction is a second distance, and the first distance is less than twice the second distance.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim ~~5~~ 11, wherein a lateral dimension of at least one of the first ~~or~~ and second elastic portion portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a third distance, a lateral dimension of each of the two associated side portions of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a fourth distance, and the third distance is greater than the fourth distance.

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Claim 57 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim 5 11, wherein a lateral dimension of at least one of the first or and second elastic portion portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a first distance, a lateral dimension of each of the associated side portions of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a second distance, and the first distance is greater than twice the second distance.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim 5 54, further comprising ~~which includes~~ a second carrier layer operatively associated with the elastic portion on the side of the elastic member opposite the side facing the first carrier layer wherein the elastic portion is disposed between the first and second carrier layers.